

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for packet messaging in a communication system including a header compressor unit (20) and a header decompressor unit (22), comprising the ~~step~~ acts of

transmitting a mode change request involving a change from a first compression mode to a second compression mode from the header decompressor unit to the header compressor unit over a packet transfer link (11), and being ~~characterized by the further steps of:~~

indicating, at the header compressor unit, rejection of the mode change request towards the header decompressor unit;

performing, if the header decompressor unit is aware of the indicated rejection, a rejection acknowledgement action at the header decompressor unit, said rejection acknowledgement action implying a successful rejection; and

remaining, at the header compressor unit, in the first compression mode in response to a successful rejection.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the indicating the rejection step comprises signaling, implicitly at or explicitly from the header compressor unit (20), rejection of the mode change request.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~  
~~the~~wherein indicating the rejection step comprises sending a mode change rejection  
message from the header compressor unit (20) to the header decompressor unit (22).

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the  
mode change rejection message comprises a redefined mode value.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~  
~~the~~wherein indicating the rejection step comprises ignoring, at the header compressor  
unit (20), the mode change request for a predetermined period of time.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, ~~characterized by~~wherein in case of  
an unsuccessful rejection by the mode change rejection message, the method further  
compresses rejection signaling by ignoring, at the header compressor unit (20), the mode  
change request for a predetermined period of time.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein  
performing the rejection acknowledgement action ~~involves~~ comprises decreasing the  
frequency of mode change request transmissions from the header decompressor unit (22)  
in response to the indicated rejection.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein  
performing the rejection acknowledgement action ~~involves~~ comprises aborting further

mode change request transmission from the header decompressor unit (22) in response to the indicated rejection.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein performing the rejection acknowledgement action ~~involves~~ comprises sending a rejection acknowledgement message from the header decompressor unit (22) to the header compressor unit (20) in response to the indicated rejection.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~characterized by the further~~ comprising ~~step of~~ determining, at the header compression unit (20), whether the rejection was successful by monitoring the packet transfer link (11).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~characterized by the further~~ comprising ~~step of~~ changing to the second compression mode at the header compressor unit (20) in case of an unsuccessful overall rejection procedure.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the header compressor unit (20) is arranged to support only a subset of all possible compression modes.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the header compressor unit (20) and the header decompressor unit (22) is implemented according to a robust header compression (ROHC) scheme.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the first and second compression modes are selected from the group of a unidirectional (U) mode, a bidirectional optimistic (O) mode, a bidirectional reliable (R) mode and a bidirectional (B) mode, including combinations thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) A communication system for packet messaging comprising:

- a first network node connected to a first end of a packet transfer link;
- a network node connected to a second end of the packet transfer link and which communicates with the first network node over the packet transfer link;
- a header compressor unit-(20) which comprises the first network node,
- a header decompressor unit-(22) and which comprises the second network node and which is configured to generate a mode change request involving a change from a first compression mode to a second compression mode;
- wherein the packet transfer link is configured to transmit the mode change request from the header decompressor unit to the header compressor unit;
- ~~means for transmitting the mode change request from the header decompressor unit to the header compressor unit over a packet transfer link;~~
- ~~means for indicating, at wherein the header compressor unit, is configured to~~determine if rejection of the mode change request is to be rejected and to send an indication of the node change request rejection towards the header decompressor unit;
- ~~means for performing wherein the header decompressor unit is configured, if the header decompressor unit is aware of the indicated rejection, to perform a rejection acknowledgement action at the header decompressor unit, if the header decompressor unit is~~

aware of the indicated rejection, said rejection acknowledgement action ~~implying~~  
signifying a successful rejection; and

~~means for remaining, at wherein~~ the header compressor unit is configured to remain,  
in the first compression mode in response to a successful rejection.

16. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 15, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that the means for indicating comprises means for signaling~~ wherein the header  
compressor unit is configured to signal, implicitly at or explicitly ~~from the header~~  
~~compressor unit (20)~~, rejection of the mode change request.

17. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 16, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that the means for indicating comprises means for~~ wherein the header compression unit is  
configured to sending a mode change rejection message from the header compressor unit  
~~(20) to the header decompressor unit (22)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 17, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that~~ wherein the mode change rejection message comprises a redefined mode value.

19. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 16, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that the means for indicating comprises means for ignoring, at the header compressor unit~~  
~~(20), wherein the header compression unit is configured to ignore~~ the mode change  
request for a predetermined period of time.

20. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 15, ~~characterized by means for aborting~~ wherein the header decompression unit is configured to abort further mode change request transmission ~~from the header decompressor unit (22)~~ in response to the indicated rejection.

21. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 20, ~~characterized by means for~~ wherein the header decompression unit is configured to sending a rejection acknowledgement message ~~from the header decompressor unit (22)~~ to the header compressor unit ~~(20)~~ in response to the indicated rejection.

22. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 15, ~~characterized by means for monitoring~~ wherein the header compression unit is configured to monitor the packet transfer link ~~(11)~~ to determine, ~~at the header compression unit (20)~~, whether the rejection was successful.

23. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the header compressor unit (20) is arranged to support only a subset of all possible compression modes.

24. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the header compressor unit ~~(20)~~ and the header decompressor unit ~~(22)~~ is implemented according to a robust header compression (ROHC) scheme.

25. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 24, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the first and second compression modes are selected from the group of a unidirectional (U) mode, a bidirectional optimistic (O) mode, a bidirectional reliable (R) mode and a bidirectional (B) mode, including combinations thereof.

26. (Currently Amended) A node of a communications system comprising a header compressor unit (20) for packet data communication comprising means for structured and arranged, upon receiving, from a header decompressor unit (22), a mode change request involving a change from a first compression mode in which the header compressor unit is operating to a second compression mode over a packet transfer link (11); and being characterized by

—— means for, to provide an indication of indicating rejection of the mode change request towards the header decompressor unit;

—— means for interpreting to interpret the signaling behavior of the header decompressor unit to determine whether the rejection was successful; and

means for to remaining in the first compression mode in response to a successful rejection.

27. (Currently Amended) The header compressor unit of claim 26, ~~characterized in that the means for indicating comprises means for sending~~wherein the header compressor unit is configured to send a mode change rejection message to the header decompressor unit (22).

28. (Currently Amended) The header compressor unit of claim 27, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the mode change rejection message comprises a redefined mode value.

29. (Currently Amended) The header compressor unit of claim 26, ~~characterized in that the means for indicating comprises means for~~wherein the header compressor unit is configured to ignoring the mode change request for a predetermined period of time.

30. (Currently Amended) The header compressor unit of claim 26, ~~characterized in that the means for interpreting comprises means for~~wherein the header compressor unit is configured to monitoring the packet transfer link ~~(11)~~.

31. (Currently Amended) The header compressor unit of claim 26, ~~characterized by being~~wherein the header compressor unit is arranged to support only a subset of all possible compression modes.

32. (Currently Amended) The header compressor unit of claim 26, ~~characterized by being~~wherein the header compressor unit is configured to implemented according to a robust header compression (ROHC) scheme with the first and second compression modes selected from the group of a unidirectional (U) mode, a bidirectional optimistic (O) mode, a bidirectional reliable (R) mode and a bidirectional (B) mode, including combinations thereof.

33. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of transmitting a mode change request involving a change from a first compression mode to a second compression mode occurs after a compression process has started.